

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

***Please replace paragraph [0055] with the following amended paragraph:***

**[0055]** Figure 2 shows in cross section a view of a spreading drum 10 in sections. In this cross-sectional view in particular a section through adjusting motor 23 is shown which, in interaction with driven spindles 22.1 and 22.2 that engage in wobble plates 17.1 and 17.2, causes the rotational axes 27.1 and 27.2 of wobble plates 17.1 and 17.2 to be inclined relative to rotational axis 16 of spreading drum 10. Through this adjustment, wobble plates 17.1 and 17.2 are rotated about spherical bushings 18.1 and 18.2. Upper seats 13 shown here move towards one another on spreading drum 10 so that a minimal longitudinal axial spacing is achieved between cigarettes 15 on seats 13. This minimal longitudinal axial spacing between cigarettes 15 corresponds to the spacing of the cigarettes that they have, e.g., on the feed drum during the transfer of the cigarettes from the feed drum to spreading drum 10.

***Please replace paragraph [0058] with the following amended paragraph:***

**[0058]** Whereas left wobble plate 17.1 is adjusted so that the seat connected to it does not carry out a lift, right wobble plate 17.2 is adjusted so that cigarette 15 moved by wobble plate 17.2 is subjected to a longitudinal axial displacement, such that cigarettes 15 are spaced apart axially at the transfer point. To adjust wobble plates 17.2, a crank 25 is fixed to spindle 22.2, so that the inclination and the position of wobble plate 17.2, and its rotational axis 27.2, is exactly justified. The manual adjustability of wobble plate 17.2 represents an alternative to the motor-driven adjustment of a wobble plate. Of course, both measures can be combined with one another.

***Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following amended paragraph:***

**[0062]** Figure 5 shows another spreading drum 20 in cross section with which carriages 26.1 and 26.2 are pushed together, i.e., have the lowest longitudinal axial distance from one another. To this end, due to the lift displacement by adjusting motors 28.1 and 28.2, wobble plates 17.1 and 17.2 are arranged crosswise to control ring 14 or to rotational axis 16 of sliding drum 20. In these cases, the rotational axis 27.1 and/or 27.2 of wobble plates 17.1 and/or 17.2 is embodied or arranged inclined by a certain angle to rotational axis 16 of sliding drum 20.